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Bahing language

Bahing (ancestor named **Paiwa, Dungmowa, Rukhusalu, Waripsawa, Timriwa, Dhimriwa, Nayango, Dhayango, Khaliwa/Khaluwa, Rendukpa/Rendu, Rungbu/Rumdali**[3]) is a language spoken by 11,658 people (2011 census) of the Bahing ethnic group in Nepal.[4] It belongs to the family of Kiranti languages, a subgroup of Sino-Tibetan.

The group Rumdali is also known as Nechali among some of them.

Bahing	
Region	Nepal
Ethnicity	Bahing
Native speakers	12,000 (2011 census)[1]
Language family	Sino-Tibetan ▪ Mahakiranti ? ▪ Kiranti ▪ Western ▪ Sunwari ▪ **Bahing**
Official status	
Official language in	Nepal
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`bhj`
Glottolog	`bahi1252 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/bahi1252)`[2]

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Names

Ethnologue lists the following alternate names for Bahing: Baying, Bayung, Ikke lo, Kiranti-Bayung, Pai Lo, Radu lo.

Geographical distribution

Bahing is spoken in the following locations of Nepal (*Ethnologue*).

- Northeastern Okhaldhunga District, Sagarmatha Zone: Harkapur, Ragdip, Bigutar, Baruneswor, Okhaldhunga, Rumjatar, Barnalu, Mamkha, Ratmate, Serna, Diyale, and Bhadaure VDC's (*Rumdali dialect*)
- Mid-southeastern Okhaldhunga District: Ketuke, Moli, Waksa, and Ubu VDC's (*Tolocha dialect*)
- Southern tip of Solukhumbu District: Necha Batase and Salyan VDC's
- Khotang District

Dialects

According to *Ethnologue*, Bahing consists of the Rumdali, Nechali, Tolacha, Moblocha, and Hangu dialects, with 85% or above intelligibility among all dialects. Rumdali is best understood by the most people.

Documentation

The Bahing language was described by Brian Houghton Hodgson (1857, 1858) as having a very complex verbal morphology. By the 1970s, only vestiges were left, making Bahing a case study of grammatical attrition and language death.

Phonology

Bahing and the related Khaling language have synchronic ten-vowel systems. The difference of [mərə] "monkey" vs. [mɯrɯ] "human being" is difficult to perceive for speakers of even neighboring dialects, which makes for "an unlimited source of fun to the Bahing people" (de Boer 2002 (https://web.archive.org/web/20090214091840/http://www.isrl.uiuc.edu/~amag/langev/paper/deboer01evolvingSound.html) PDF (https://web.archive.org/web/20080704143113/http://www3.isrl.uiuc.edu/~junwang4/langev/localcopy/pdf/deboer01evolvingSound.pdf)).

Morphology

Hodgson (1857) reported a middle voice formed by a suffix *-s(i)* added to the verbal stem, corresponding to reflexives in other Kiranti languages.

References

1. Bahing (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/bhj/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Bahing" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/bahi1252). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. linked to Rumjatar by Hanßon–Winter 1991
4. Detailed language map of eastern Nepal, see language #4 near the map's north/south center and about 2/3 of the way from east to west (http://www.ethnologue.com/show_map.asp?name=NP&seq=20)

External links

- Himalayan Languages Project (http://www.himalayanlanguages.org/?q=language_studies/bahing)

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